

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A continuous method of production of carbon nanoparticles, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

continuously providing substrate particles;

providing on the substrate particles a transition metal formate or oxalate compound which is decomposable to yield the transition metal under a non-reducing atmosphere ~~conditions~~ permitting carbon nanoparticle formation;

fluidizing the substrate particles with a flow of gaseous carbon source;

heating the transition metal formate or oxalate on the substrate particles

~~contacting a gaseous carbon source with the substrate particles;~~

before, during or after ~~said~~ contacting step the gaseous carbon source with the substrate particles, decomposing the transition metal ~~compound~~ formate or oxalate to yield the transition metal on the substrate particles;

forming carbon nanoparticles by decomposition of the carbon source catalysed by the transition metal; and

collecting the carbon nanoparticles formed by elution.

2.– 5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transition metal is nickel, iron or cobalt.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is a hydrocarbon or carbon monoxide.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the gaseous carbon source is methane or acetylene.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is passed over the substrate particles.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the gaseous carbon source is mixed with a diluent.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the diluent is argon.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles comprise oxide particles and/or silicate particles.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the substrate particles comprise one or more of silica, alumina, CaSiO_x , calcium oxide or magnesium oxide.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate particles are in the form of a fumed powder, a colloid, a gel or an aerogel.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 200 °C and 1000°C.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the transition metal compound is decomposed by heating to a temperature between 600 °C and 1000 °C.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carbon nanoparticles are carbon nanotubes.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the carbon nanotubes are single walled carbon nanotubes.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the initial step of impregnating the substrate particles with the transition metal compound.

21.-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim ~~21~~ 1, comprising the steps of:

continuously providing substrate particles to an upper part of an inclined surface;
contacting the substrate particles on the inclined surface with a flow of gaseous carbon source;
heating the transition metal compound on the substrate particles; and
collecting carbon nanoparticles formed from a lower part of the inclined surface.

24. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of production of carbon nanoparticles, comprising the steps of:~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein
~~providing on substrate particles a transition metal oxalate, formate or multi metal atom carbonyl;~~

heating the transition metal oxalate, or formate ~~or multi metal atom carbonyl~~ on the substrate particles;

~~contacting a gaseous carbon source with the substrate particles; and collecting the carbon nanoparticles formed~~ to decompose the transition metal oxalate or formate to the transition metal occurs before contacting the substrate particles with the flow of gaseous carbon source.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the transition metal oxalate, or formate ~~or multi metal atom carbonyl~~ is nickel formate and the substrate particles are silica particles.

26. (Previously Presented) Carbon nanoparticles formed by a method as claimed in Claim 1.